

**In the Claims:**

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

1. (Currently Amended) An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

memory for storing template data, the template data ~~indicative of having a user defined control values~~ value indicative of how a network element attribute is to be provisioned for controlling a network element; and

a system controller configured to identify a plurality of network elements within the communication network based on user input and to automatically provision the network element attribute for each of the identified network elements based on the ~~template data~~ user defined value stored in memory.

2. (Original) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the system controller is configured to automatically provision each of the identified network elements in response to user input.

3. (Original) The EMS of claim 1, wherein:  
the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients:  
the memory stores sets of graphical user interface (GUI) code, each of the sets of GUI code defining a different GUI;

the system controller is configured to select one of the sets of GUI codes and to provide the selected set of GUI code to one of the clients; and

the one client is configured to display a GUI based on the selected set of GUI code and to define the template data based on user inputs received by the one client, the one client further configured to transmit the template data to the EMS.

4. (Original) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients, and wherein the system controller is configured to receive the template data from one of the clients and to store the received template data in the memory.

5. (Original) The EMS of claim 4, wherein the system controller receives the template data from the one client during a first communication session that is between the EMS and the one client, and wherein the system controller is configured to provide the template data to another of the clients during a second communication session that is between the EMS and the other client.

6. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 5, wherein the system ~~manager~~ controller is configured to automatically provision each of the identified network elements in response to a request received from the other client during the second communication session.

7. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 5, wherein the system ~~manager~~ controller is configured to receive template data from the other client during the second communication session and to update the template data stored in the memory based on the template data received from the other client.

8. (Currently Amended) An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

memory; and

a system ~~manager~~ controller configured to receive a provision template and to store the provision template in the memory, the provision template ~~indicative of~~ having control values, each of the control values for controlling a respective network element attribute, the system ~~manager~~ controller configured to receive a request that identifies the provision template and to retrieve the provision template in response to the request, the system ~~manager~~ controller further configured to select a plurality of network elements within the communication network and to automatically provision each of the selected network elements based on each of the control values of the retrieved provision template.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein:

the EMS is interfaced with a plurality of clients;

the system controller is configured to provide the retrieved provision template to one of the clients in response to the request;

the one client is configured to change the provision template based on user inputs and to communicate the changed provision template to the EMS; and

the system controller, in provisioning the selected network elements, is configured to utilize control values indicated by the changed provision template.

10. (Original) The EMS of claim 8, wherein the system controller is configured to automatically provision the selected network elements in response to the request.

11. (Currently Amended) The EMS of claim 8, wherein:  
the EMS is interface with a plurality of clients;  
the request is transmitted from one of the clients;  
the system ~~manager~~ controller is configured to receive, from the one client, data that identifies the selected network elements; and  
the system ~~manager~~ controller is configured to select each of the selected network elements based on the data received from the one client.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:  
receiving template data, the template data ~~indicative of control~~ having user defined values for controlling ~~a network element~~ different network element attributes;  
identifying a plurality of network elements within the communication network based on user input; ~~[[and]]~~  
automatically provisioning each of the identified network elements based on the ~~template data~~ user defined values, one of the user defined values for controlling a particular network element attribute, and  
automatically controlling the particular network attribute for each of the identified network elements based on the one user defined value of the template data.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the provisioning step is performed in response to user input.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for managing elements of a communication network, comprising the steps of:

defining a provision template based on user input, the provision template ~~indicative of~~ having control values, each of the control values for controlling a respective network element attribute;

receiving a request that identifies the provision template;

retrieving the provision template in response to the request;

selecting a plurality of network elements within the communication network; and

automatically provisioning each of the selected network elements based on each of the control values of the retrieved provision template.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying the retrieved provision template in response to the request; and

updating the provision template based on user inputs,

wherein the provisioning step includes the step of storing control values indicated by the updated provision template into each of the selected network elements.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the provisioning step is performed in response to the request.

17. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

defining a second provision template, wherein the second provision template has a control value for controlling a particular network element attribute and wherein one of the control values of the first provision template is for controlling the particular network element attribute; and

selecting between the first and second provision templates based on the request, wherein the retrieving step is based on the selecting between the first and second provision templates step.

18. (New) The EMS of claim 1, wherein the network element attribute is line speed, and wherein the system controller establishes the line speed of each of the plurality of network elements based on the control value.

19. (New) The EMS of claim 18, wherein one of the network elements has a control value for controlling the line speed of the one network element, and wherein the system controller is configured to replace the control value of the one network element with the control value of the template data.

20. (New) The EMS of claim 8, wherein one of the control values is for controlling a network element attribute, and wherein the system controller, in provisioning the selected network elements, is configured to store the one control value in each of the network elements such that the network element attribute for each of the network elements is controlled by the one control value stored therein.

21. (New) An element management method, comprising the steps of:  
defining a first provision template having a user defined value for a network element attribute; and  
provisioning a first plurality of network elements based on the first provision template, wherein the provisioning a first plurality of network elements step comprises the step of automatically setting, within each of the first plurality of network elements, a control value for the network element attribute based on the user defined value of the first provision template.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the setting further comprises storing the user defined value in said each network element.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the network element attribute is line speed, and wherein the control value indicates a particular line speed for the network elements.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:  
defining a second provision template having a second user defined value for the network element attribute; and  
provisioning a second plurality of network elements based on the second provision template, wherein the provisioning a second plurality of network elements step comprises the step of automatically setting, within each of the second plurality of network elements, a control value for the network element attribute based on the user defined value of the second provision template.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of selecting among the first and second provision templates based on a user input, wherein the provisioning a first plurality of network elements step is based on the selecting step.